



NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS ALLIANCE

Vicious Dog Meeting

Thursday, May 22, 2008

4:00 p.m.

City Hall 1st floor conference room

In Attendance:

Barbara Perry, CAC Chair, West Square Neighborhood

Greta Connor, CAC Neighborhoods & Education Committee Chair, Sedgefield Acres

Dorothy Campbell, West End Neighborhood

Linda Edmondson, Brooklyn South Square Neighborhood

Niven Bayer, West Square Neighborhood

Staff: Ann Frye, Salisbury PD Animal Control Officer

Lynn Raker, CAC Staff Liaison

MEETING NOTES

Barbara Perry stated that many attendees at the April 24 meeting of the Neighborhood Leaders Alliance had expressed their concern about a proliferation of potentially vicious dogs in neighborhoods. A subcommittee of representatives of the different neighborhoods agreed to meet and discuss the problem with Salisbury PD Animal Control Officer Anne Frye.

Attendees at the subcommittee meeting are concerned about the safety of school children and pedestrians when dogs are inadequately restrained or behind low fences, about individuals walking multiple dogs (dangerous breeds), and about and about the numbers of dogs individuals keep and possibly breed at their homes.

Officer Frye responded that if a citizen feels threatened by a dog, he or she needs to call the police. The City has a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog ordinance. (City of Salisbury Code of Ordinances Article IV. Animal Control.

<http://www.municode.com/resources/gateway.asp?pid=10275&sid=33>)

Police Department must have actual witnesses, and many callers do not leave name. Officer Frye is only officer directly responsible for animal control; as City annexes, staff is spread thinner. Dealing with dogs is not always a job the Police Department welcomes.

Rowan County Animal Control Supervisor issued a memo denying assistance to City outside of normal working hours. The memo advises County Staff to say "I'm not allowed to assist the

city off hours.” This response further limits the service that can be provided to abate dangerous dogs.

Officer Frye stated that the problem is not as bad as several years ago when there were packs of dogs roaming freely around neighborhoods. However, she had several recommendations for tightening the current ordinance:

- No more than 3 dogs allowed per residence. Puppies born for resale may remain in the residence up to the age of 3 months. After that time all fines, fees and regulations will apply to them as well.
- Must be at least 18 years old to walk dog on public sidewalk
- Mandatory micro-chipping of dogs
- Any dog or cat declared Vicious, Dangerous, or Potentially Dangerous will be required to be spayed or neutered. The owner of the animal must also get a \$100,000 insurance policy.

Citizens may make a recommendation for a City Code text amendment to the Animal Control Ordinance.

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